# Dolgelley Rural District Council

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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P.

THE

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

## Year 1944.

Printed by Hughes Bros., "Dydd" Office, Dolgelley.

# TO THE DOLGELLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Davies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report upon the sanitary condition of your district during 1944.

The Dolgelley Rural District consists of 13 Parishes, and has an area of 150,128 acres. The resident population for the year 1944 is estimated by the Registrar-General to be 7,889.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944, according to the Rate Books was 2,007.

The rateable value at the same date was 26,706 and the sum represented by a penny product was £108 : 14 : 6.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Live Births :** | | | |
| Legitimate ... ... ... ... | 120 | 61 | 59 |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... ... | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| **Still Births :** | | | |
| Legitimate ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | — |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... ... | 2 | 1 | 1 |

### Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... ... ... | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... | — | — | — |

### Rates per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

| | |
|---|---|
| General Death Rate ... ... ... ... | 14.19 |
| Total Tuberculosis death rate ... ... | 0.63 |
| "Phthisis" death rate ... ... ... ... | 0.63 |
| Cancer death rate ... ... ... ... ... | 1.52 |
| Birth rate ... ... ... ... ... ... | 16.35 |
| Still birth rate ... ... ... ... ... | 0.50 |
| Scarlet Fever death rate ... ... ... | 0.13 |
| Diphtheria death rate ... ... ... ... | 0.13 |

### Rates per 1,000 Total Births (live and still births).

| | |
|---|---|
| Still birth rate ... ... ... ... ... | 30.07 |
| Maternal mortality total ... ... ... | — |
| Sepsis ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | — |
| Other forms ... ... ... ... ... ... | — |

### Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

| | |
|---|---|
| Infant mortality total ... ... ... ... | 46.51 |
| Legitimate Infants ... ... ... ... | 50.00 |
| Illegitimate Infants ... ... ... ... | — |
| Diarrhoea under two years ... ... ... | — |

## PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

1 M.O.H. (Part-time), 1 Sanitary Inspector (Certificated), full-time in conjunction with the Dolgelley Urban District Council.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service is controlled by a joint committee of the Dolgelley Urban and Rural Districts and the Barmouth Urban District Council. An ambulance to serve the three areas is stationed at Dolgelley.

During the war the Red Cross Ambulance Service was very active in the district, and I should like to take this opportunity of testifying to their efficiency at all times of day and night. It is hoped that the personel of the Red Cross Service will continue to give service as voluntary attendants with the ambulance of the Local Authority. Also an endeavour is being made to get a rota of first-aid men to act as stretcher bearers when required.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

**Abergynolwyn.**—The Council are preparing a post-war scheme for this village.

**Corris.**—No further steps have been taken to prepare a scheme for this village, whilst the need is urgent both in Upper and Lower Corris.

**Dyffryn.**—Plans submitted to the Welsh Board of Health and suspended during the war are now being revised to meet the present day requirements and to be re-submitted as a post-war scheme.

**Fairbourne.**—The existing sewer and sewerage scheme has worked satisfactorily during the year.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no industries in the district to pollute the rivers and streams. There are some careless individuals who insist on throwing tins and refuse into the streams. Warning notices are posted up in some localities to prevent this undesirable custom, but it is difficult to abolish it altogether.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Water Closets... ... ... ... ... ... | 431 |
| Dry Earth ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1979 |
| Midden Privies ... ... ... ... ... | 105 |

## WATER SUPPLIES

| | Quality | Quantity | Bact. Exam. | Treatment | Chem. Analysis | Plumbo Solvency | Stand-pipes. No. of Houses | Main to Houses |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberangell | ... Good | Insufficient | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 53 | 28 |
| Abergynolwyn | ... Good | Sufficient | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 74 | 30 |
| Bontddu | ... Good | Do. | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 40 | 40 |
| B'mouth Junct. (Arthog W.S.) | ... Good | Do. | Satisfactory | Pressure Filter Beds & Chlorination plant | Nil | Nil | — | 30 |
| Dyffryn | ... Good | Do. | Do. | Do. | Nil | Nil | 47 | 250 |
| Corris | ... Bad | Insufficient | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 300 | 28 |
| Llanegryn | ... Good | Sufficient | Satisfactory | Nil | Nil | Nil | 60 | 81 |
| Llanelltyd | ... Good | Insufficient | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 9 | 8 |
| Llwyngwril | ... Good | Sufficient | Satisfactory | Pressure Filter Beds & Chlorination Plant | Nil | Nil | 14 | 139 |
| Talybont | ... Good | Sufficient | Satisfactory | Nil | Nil | Nil | — | 51 |
| Taicynhaeaf | ... Good | Sufficient | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | — | 15 |

## SCAVENGING.

The Council undertake the scavenging of the villages of Abergynolwyn, Aberllefenni, Arthog, Barmouth Junction, Upper and Lower Corris, Dyffryn, Fairbourne, Llwyngwril, Llanelltyd, Llanegryn and Mallwyd. These are let out on contract for twelve months. Contractors are requested to remove all house refuse between the hours of 9 p.m. and 8 a.m., and are responsible to see that the lorry or cart in use has a suitable cover. It is essential that these stipulations be carried out to ensure the dust-less removal of refuse. In all cases the refuse is disposed of by open tipping on sites provided by the contractors, and in a purely rural area of this kind, which is so sparsely populated, there is no great difficulty in efficiently disposing of refuse of all kinds.

The cleaning of privies, ashpits and cesspools is done by the occupiers of the premises.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary in this respect during the year.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no (a) public or (b) privately owned swimming baths open to the public.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action was necessary during the past year.

## SCHOOLS.

The supervision of the Schools is carried out in close co-operation with the School Medical Officer, who is also the County Medical Officer of Health.

The following schools were closed during the past year by the School Medical Officer owing to the existence of infectious diseases :—

| School | Period of Closure | Reason for Closure |
|---|---|---|
| Abergynolwyn | Feb. 15—17 | Mumps |
| Abergynolwyn | Feb. 20—24 | Mumps |
| Bryncoedifor N.P. | Jan. 31—Feb. 4 | Whooping Cough |
| Bryncoedifor N.P. | Feb. 14—18 | Whooping Cough |

## HOUSING.

No reliable record of housing conditions and overcrowding can be maintained owing to the fluctuating circumstances consequent to war-time conditions.

A new survey is being made and records kept of houses unsuitable for repair. This survey will form the basis of post-war housing.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of formal notices issued ... ... ... | 0 |
| Total number of formal notices complied with ... ... | 0 |
| Total number of informal notices issued ... ... ... | 1 |
| Total number of informal notices complied with ... ... | 1 |
| Total number of new houses completed :— | |
| (a) by Local Authority ... ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| (b) by private enterprise ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Number of plans—New Houses ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| —Buildings... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Visits to Bakehouses ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 9 |
| Number of notices re defects ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Visits to Cowsheds ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 40 |
| Number of visits re defects ... ... ... ... ... ... | 28 |
| Visits to Dairies ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Number of notices re defects ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Notice re removal of ashes ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Removal of manure ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Notices re defective drains ... ... ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Number of visits to cases of Infectious Diseases ... ... | 99 |
| Number of houses disinfected ... ... ... ... ... | 76 |
| Notice of defective water fittings ... ... ... ... | 0 |
| Of pail closets converted into W.C.— | |
| Total number of Water Closets ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Pail Closets ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Privies or other Closets ... ... ... | 0 |
| Number of Closets serving more than one house ... | 0 |
| Milk samples taken for Ministry of Health... ... ... | 0 |
| Milk samples taken for County Council ... ... ... | 12 |

## HOUSING.

**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—**

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | nil |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | nil |
| (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925... ... ... ... ... ... ... | nil |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... | nil |
| Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ... ... ... ... ... | nil |
| Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | nil |

**2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—**

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ... ... ... ... ... 4

**3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

(a) Proceeding under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :

(a) By Owners ... ... ... ... ... ... ... nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... nil

(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... ... ... ... ... nil

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... ... ... nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ... ... ... ... nil

(2) Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... ... ... ... nil

**4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding. :—**

No action was possible during the war.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The cowsheds and dairies in many cases need improvement in structure to provide better light, increased ventilation, impervious stalls, better water supplies and drainage systems. The difficulties with the smaller farms are many, but much improvement has been made to meet modern demands. On the whole, the cowsheds are clean, periodically limewashed and the standard of milk produced is good.

### Meat.

No animals are slaughtered for human consumption in the Rural Area. The slaughtering is carried out at the abattoir situated in the Urban Council's Area.

### Bakehouses.

All these are small and subject to periodical inspection. They are kept clean and are limewashed at intervals. There are no underground bakehouses.

### Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out for this Authority at the Public Health Laboratories, Aberystwyth, both for water and milk.

### Workshops.

These are few in number and are very small. They are occupied for the most part by the owner. Their sanitary condition are on the whole satisfactory.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

It is a calamity of the first order that there is no Hospital for the reception of Infectious Diseases in the County. The temporary small Hospital at Colomendy, Corwen, served a very real need. Personally, I favour an amalgamation of three or more Counties for the provision of a permanent efficient isolation hospital. This, no doubt, will be the arrangement when circumstances permit. Meanwhile, I think it imperative that some arrangement be made within the County to receive these infectious cases.

At the time of writing, this Authority is gravely concerned about the recurring outbreak of diphtheria at Abergynolwyn. The assistance of the Welsh Board of Health has been sought, and on more than one occasion, the matter has been discussed with their officials. The School Medical Service has done all in their power regarding immunisation of the scholars, and on the advice of the Welsh Board of Health, immunisation has been offered to all the adult population. The germ isolated from all cases has been of the 'Gravis' type, and it must be that the population at large has not acquired sufficient resistance to this virulent type of bacteria.

### Disinfection.

In my opinion the Council should provide a conveyance for the collection and delivery of infected clothing to Dolgelley for steam disinfection. At present the disinfection is done by sealing the rooms to formaldehyde vapour, and in some cases owing to the plan of the house no disinfection is possible without having possession of the house.

| Disease | Total Cases Notified | Cases admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|---|---|---|---|
| Measles ... ... ... ... ... | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Small Pox ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... ... ... | 7 | 7 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid) ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Fever... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough ... ... ... | 47 | 0 | 0 |

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tubeculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1944 are as follows :—

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Resp. | | Non-Resp. | | Resp. | | Non-Resp. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 45 ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 55 ... ... ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 65 and upwards ... ... ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals ... ... ... | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered to me during the past year by our Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Idwal Roberts.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. W. EDWARDS,

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Gwyndy,
Dolgelley.
July, 1945.